~~12.~~ A variable output RF power amplifier comprising:

voltage regulator means for producing a specified voltage within a range of voltages in accordance with a control signal for performing at least one of level control and burst control; and

a power amplifier including a final amplification stage having the specified voltage as a supply voltage and having a drive signal causing the final amplification to be driven repeatedly between two states, a hard-on state and a hard-off state, without operating the amplifier in a linear operating region for an appreciable percentage of time.

~~13.~~ A method of controlling a power level of a power amplifier, comprising:

generating a specified voltage in accordance with a control signal for performing at least one of level control and burst control;

applying the specified voltage to a power amplifier as a supply voltage of a final amplification stage of the power amplifier; and

repeatedly driving the final amplification stage between two states, a hard-on state and a hard-off state, without operating the amplifier in a linear operating region for an appreciable percentage of time.

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 30, 1999 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the claims have been amended as set forth above. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected as being anticipated by Hull. Claims 2-10 were rejected as being unpatentable over Hull in view of Perusse. Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been canceled and new Claims 12 and 13 added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

More particularly, Claims 12 and 13 now recite in part that the power amplifier is driven repeatedly between two states, a hard-on state and a hard-off state, without operating